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The Cullenders



One name study

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Editorial

My original intention when I set out on this one-name study was to find out about our past, and hopefully to find a link between all the Cullenders and Collenders world wide. I've still a long way to go to achieving that objective, but already I've met (mainly in the virtual sense) a lot of very interesting people, and I've discovered that the present also provides its fair share of anecdotes. In this issue I am featuring two recent stories, both drawn from news sources on the internet. There is little to celebrate in either story, although we can perhaps be proud that one of our 'clan' has been described as a heroine, but it is the first story, about Vincent Collender, that I am hoping will produce the success story for next year's edition. I'm sure many readers of this newsletter already

participate in 'positive action' by writing letters and sending emails in support of worthy causes world- wide. I do hope that you will agree that Vincent is just one such worthy cause, and will join me in writing to the Chief Executive Officer of the South Eastern Health Board in Ireland, urging him to put Helen's mind at rest about the future care of her son once she has passed on.

I have included just one historical story this year, but even though the tale is still incomplete it relates to a branch of the family that has produced far more than its fair share of interesting characters. Like the two contemporary stories, this branch has adopted the 'Collender' spelling, but I have established they were only one generation removed from a 'Cullender' branch, so however you spell your surname you can take a personal interest in the story.

I eventually got round to building the web-site promised in last year's newsletter, and I have uploaded several sets of records that might be of interest. The URL is <http://www.annjoss.plus.com>.

I have made good progress with recording all of the births, marriages and deaths of the various spellings of our name, as you will see if you check out the website. Although I have found evidence that the name

has occasionally been recorded as Callender, I have so far resisted the temptation to add that to the list of names I am researching, life is just too short.

I have tended to concentrate any detailed research on branches of the family where I have been contacted by another descendant. It is surprising how much progress can be made when two researchers compare notes, and very often apparently minor pieces of information, such as 'my great grand-father served in the Army during the Boer War', can be enough to slot several pieces of the jigsaw together. I would therefore be very grateful, as well as fascinated, to receive any information you have about your Collender ancestry, however trivial it may seem to you. No information provided by individuals will be reproduced in any publication without their express permission.

The first Collender in
Ireland is reported to
have arrived in a coal-
boat named
Red NelloC

← ← ← ← ←

Mother appeals to State to help care for disabled son

By Niamh Nolan
[reproduced from the Irish Examiner, 8th November 2004]

A 73-YEAR-OLD Co Waterford woman has made an emotional appeal for reassurances that the State will take care of her profoundly mentally and physically handicapped son when she dies. Helen Collender has spent 30 years asking a simple question of the State, the Department of Health and the South Eastern Health Board. "I've been asking the question - what will become of Vincent if I go?" she said. "To date, I've had no response."

Vincent's disability is so profound he can't speak, has no use of his limbs, is not toilet trained and sleeps in a cot. Each day the 34-year-old's elderly mother is helped to wash, dress and feed him.

"My last prayer every night is 'when I'm too old to dream, will the angels come and carry him home?'" she said.

As recently as two weeks ago, Helen and her husband James, a retired farmer, were told by a social worker that no funding exists for a full-time place for Vincent, nor was there likely to be any time soon.

"I would like Vincent to live in the love and care of his family home for as long as he can," Helen said. "I'm not looking for some institute to say 'we'll take him in now', I just want an assurance that if I get sick tonight someone will mind him," she said.

Helen said she has ruled out as "criminal" the possibility that Vincent's grown-up siblings would be left to take care of

him. "I wouldn't want to see any member of my family suffer for 30 years," she said.

The Collender family's fight for help began when their son was just a child. Attempts to find a school or place for him in his youth proved fruitless and it wasn't until he was 13 that the Sisters of Charity in Waterford city offered some service.

"I looked at him banging his head off the floor for 13 years," Mrs Collender explains. He never received speech therapy or any special help to aid his early development.

"I hope someday to find it in my heart to forgive the health board and the State for depriving him of any hope there may have been," his mother explained emotionally.

Vincent currently makes an 80-mile round trip to the Ealton daycare centre run by the Brothers of Charity and the family are very grateful for this service. But what happens to him down the road remains a concern.

"Can you kindly tell me, will there be a place for the child when I'm no longer around?" Helen asked.

The South Eastern Health Board would not comment on the case. In a statement, it said: "Referral to a service or a residential unit will vary according to the disability in question and the needs assessment process involved. Services are subject to available resources and priority waiting lists."

The Department of Health commented: "The position in relation to residential care for Vincent Collender is a matter for the SEHB."

Please help Helen to get her response. Write to

Mr. Pat McLoughlin, Chief Executive Officer
South Eastern Health Board,
Head Office,
Lacken,
Dublin Road,
Kilkenny
Ireland

Occupations in 1880 US Census

Billiard Table Builder	1
Bookkeeper	1
Carpenter	1
Clerk In Factory	1
Clerk In Grocery	1
Coal Miner	1
Day Laborer	1
Diamond Setter	1
Driver	1
Drug Store Clerk	1
Farm Laborer	1
Farmeress	1
Farming	1
Hired Hand	1
Labourer	1
Mason	1
Minister	1
Pedler	1
Potter	1
Retired Farmer	2
Sewing Machine Agent	1
Shop Foreman	1
Tailor	1
Teamster	1
Tin Smith	2
Work In Cotton Mill	1
Working On Farm	1
Works At Pottery	1
Works In Boiler Shop	1
Works In Brick Yard.	1
Servant	4
Domestic Servant	2
Machinist	2
School	9
Laborer	6
At Home	13
Farmer	13
Keeping House	30

From London's Docklands to the South African Diamond Fields via the Scottish Highlands

This most extraordinary picture dating from about 1860 is called an ambrotype. It is a negative, printed on glass and then coloured with ink, and it depicts the founders of an equally extraordinary family. The man is John Collender, born in London's Docklands in 1820. At the time of the 1841 census he was still living there with his mother Elizabeth, in Parnham Street, beside the Regents Canal. Probably on the other side of the canal from the railway bridge and café pictured below, but these are all that is left standing from those times.



John married Maria Cox in 1842, and by 1851 they were living with their 8 year old son William near the Woolwich Dockyard, on the other side of the River Thames, and John was employed as a Shipwright. Maria died in 1858, an event that has produced a mystery I have yet to resolve. Her death was registered twice, firstly by a neighbour, with the cause listed as colic, and then six weeks later by the coroner, who described the cause as 'natural, by visitation of God'. I can only think that John had been away from home, and



suspected foul play, hopefully I will be able to find out from either the Coroner's records or the newspaper library.

John married again in 1860, and it is almost certainly his second wife, Sally Blake Landers, in the ambrotype. By this time he was living and working in Devonport, at another Naval Dockyard.

The boy in the picture is William, aged about 12½, although his military records would have made him 14½, a lie in which it seems he was never caught out. For some unfathomable reason

William, born in London's Docklands and with no evidence of ever having travelled any farther north, had joined the Gordon Highlanders, who's base was in Aberdeen, Scotland. After training at the relatively new military musical academy of Kneller Hall, he went on to become bandmaster of that regiment, serving all over the world until he eventually retired to Brighton in 1898.

William and his wife Mary Loveday had four sons and 2 daughters. The eldest son, William, was awarded the

Military Cross for distinguished service during the WW1 German South West Africa Campaign, Llewellyn rose to the rank of major and was awarded the Silver Medal for Military Valour, and Frederick and Kelsey also served as commissioned officers in that war. However it was between the wars that Kelsey really distinguished himself. While he was working for the South African Chamber of Mines, he invented Mass Miniature Radiography. His wife Hilda, a Major in the South African Women's Auxiliary Air Force during WW2, was awarded the OBE, and his son Frederick spent 3 years as a prisoner of war in Italy, Austria and Germany. During that time Fred took lessons in geology from a fellow prisoner, and went on to eventually get his PhD in 1965, with a thesis on gold. Back in South Africa it was Fred who was to be the geologist who confirmed and formally recorded the size of the Lesotho Diamond (601 carats).

These are just a few highlights from the history of this amazing branch of the Collenders. If I ever get around to writing the book they'll almost certainly have at least one chapter all to themselves.



Cullender variants in 1880/81

In 1880/81 there were just 270 C*1*nders in the UK and the USA altogether. Between them they had 18 different ways of spelling their surname. In both countries Collender was the most common spelling, with Cullender a fairly close second. Most of the variants are almost certainly either original or transcription errors

UK		
Surname	women	men
COLANDER	1	
CULLANDER	1	3
COLINER	3	4
CULLINER	3	3
COLINDER	4	4
CULLENER	4	1
COLLANDER	5	2
COLLINDER	9	4
COLLINER	9	8
CULLENDER	13	7
COLLENDER	19	14
Grand Total	71	50

USA		
Surname	women	men
CULENDER	1	
COLLINDER	2	4
CULLINER	2	2
COLANDER	9	12
COLENDER	10	6
COLLANDER	13	9
COLLENDER	17	22
CULLENDER	17	19
COLENDAR		1
COLINDER		1
CULANDER		1
CULENDER		1
Grand Total	71	78

The first Collender hero(ine) of the 21st Century.

In 1831 Margaret Collender, of 9 Barbican, London, bequeathed the sum of £20 in trust for her grand-daughter Margaret Tylos, (who appears to have been an orphan at the time) to be paid on her attaining the age of 21 or on marriage, whichever came first. In the meantime the dividends and interest from that £20 were to be used towards Margaret's maintenance, support and advancement in the world

Early in the morning of 6th February 2001 39 year old Corporal Frances Marie Collender of the Delaware State Police was travelling home after completing her night shift. She accepted one last call, to assist a stranded motorist, and was killed while returning to her vehicle when another car went out of control in the icy conditions.

Pictured are her two daughters, Samantha and Taylor, planting a tree in her memory at a ceremony outside the barracks in Odessa. Delaware State Police have also renamed their annual cadets' open day as 'Corporal Collender Day'.



Frances' name will live on throughout the United States, as it has been adopted for the title of an Act providing improved benefits for public safety officers:
The Frances Collender Public Safety Officers' Benefits Improvement Act 2001.